

Sounding the Trumpet

April - June 2011



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Preach, Teach and Reach

“With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for His mercy endureth forever” Psalm 136 v 12.

I once heard a presentation at a Christian fellowship, from a missionary worker, ministering in Bangladesh. As he started his presentation he said, ‘I’m not a great preacher, but I am a ‘reacher.” He then went on to discuss how the Lord had called him, and how he reaches people with the Gospel in Bangladesh.

A reacher, cannot remain stationary. There must be a forward movement towards something or someone. A reacher has an impact and influence on people. An outstretched hand, a word of encouragement and comfort, striving to get the Gospel to a lost world. The Lord Jesus was, and is Teacher, Preacher and ‘reacher.’ We must always look to Him and learn how He reached out to people. To reach, is as important as to teach and preach! The Lord Jesus reached out to the woman at the well (Jn. 4v11). He reached out to Peter when he was sinking in the water (Mtt. 14v29). He reached out to heal and to deliver many people. He reached out to tax-collectors and sinners (Mtt. 9v10). We must take His example and reach those we come into contact with, family, work colleagues, friends and neighbours. Preach, teach but don’t forget to ‘reach.’

Richard Hardy

Obedience is Faith in Action

Hebrews 11:24-29, 32-40

As we look at Hebrew 11 we are confronted with great examples of faith in action. For throughout the ages God has moved men and women to do great things for His Glory. In all cases it took tremendous obedience, courage and sacrifice to do what God asked of them. In many circumstances the task given looked a complete impossibility. As we read through this chapter we become

enthralled and amazed. How God used mere human beings to accomplish great feats to show His power, love and blessings to them and to others.

One of those men of faith mentioned was Moses:

(1) He refused (24):-

- a. The world's easy options.
- b. The chance of worldly fame and wealth.

(2) He realized (25-26):-

- a. That this world's material pleasures and goods were very short lived.
- b. He looked for a greater reward in the future.

(3) He regarded (27):-

- a. He kept his eyes both physically and spiritually on the Invisible God.
- b. To do, say and walk as God had instructed him.

(4) He rescued (28):-

- a. God's people out of the hands of the Pharaoh.

(5) He received (29):-

- a. The great blessings only God can give.
- b. The experiences with God which were beyond his wildest dreams.
- c. His name is now imprinted in history and on God's book for eternity.

What about you and me?

What about our faith in God?

What about our obedience to His call and demands on your life?

Will we be known as men and women who have lived our lives by faith and obedience to the heavenly calling without counting the cost?

(1) Keep the faith (1 Timothy 1:9).

(2) Saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8).

(3) Right in God's sight by faith. (Romans 5:1).

(4) Stand firm in the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13)

(5) Live a life of faith in God (1 Timothy 1:4).

(6) We will by faith (Hebrews 10: 37-38) and obedience. (Exodus 33:12-17).

Terry Martin

Fear, Fallout and FEM

"Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name" (2 Chronicles 6:33).

Fear

What a world we find ourselves living and dying in! Fear is enveloping nations like a merciless cruel tsunami. Scientific technology in the correct setting is helpful and beneficial for all, but when this gets out of hand it becomes hurtful and brutal. Tears flow from children and hearts of parents are broken.

Governments become almost powerless. Words mock the wounded and those frightened and fearful.

Nuclear Reactors are the products of scientific technology and they have failed safety standards. Highly paid experts must share corporate blame, as indeed must many of the world bankers who hide behind stacks of stolen money, then blame the poor for the cause of all the problems.

The weather systems are of course in the hands of God. The heavens and the earth belong to the Lord. He can do what He wants to do and has every right to do so. We struggle to understand earthquakes and tsunamis and the resultant fires and floods

The Lord is at the top of the ladder in these matters while we are on the bottom rung looking up to Him in the heavens. That is fact, so faith or unbelief has little to do with it! (The word 'fear' is mentioned 385 times in the Bible and the word 'faith' is mentioned 231 times.)

Fallout

Radiation fallout is real and ruthless. Sin is exactly the same in essence; silent and invisible resulting in fear and ultimate extermination, if it is left to fester and flourish in ones life. The hearts of the reactors desperately require neutralising and cleansing, immediate action is necessary. May the experts in these matters be equal to the need at this fearful time.

Sin is a million times stronger than a nuclear reactor, and the power to deal with the cleansing of sin requires power that cannot be found anywhere on earth. It is unavailable, for it is elusive to experts in all fields of human activity. It can only be found at the top of the ladder, it must come from God in His heaven. This is exactly what happened when Christ came to be born as a child in a cradle. Thirty-three years later the work was gloriously completed on a wooden cross by the broken body and poured out blood of Jesus Christ the Nazarene. His power to forgive and cleanse the human heart is a million times stronger than sin. His is the Power and His is the Glory in these matters. Faith in Christ Jesus has replaced the fear of men in the Christian's life, resulting in one hundred percent commitment to the Lord in both belief and behaviour. His sacrifice for us cries out for our sacrifice for Him. His cross demands our total commitment. "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9). What a lovely truth. Clean faith must be superior to unclean fear!

FEM

Let us encourage each other by all means. May we seek the Power of the Holy Spirit in all we seek to do for Jesus. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

We count it a divine privilege to be commissioned as Bible preachers and will continue to obey the command; Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15). Let our light shine out in a darkening world. May our holiness of life bring Gospel hope and joy. Always looking to the top of the ladder – and then above and beyond to the heavens.

Jonah

A commentary series by David Moody

2V 1. “Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,” Once Jonah had entered the water there was a great mouth open and ready to receive him. It is hard to imagine what it must have been like to be in complete darkness. Within a moment he was engulfed in a slimy stinking mixture. Maybe it made Jonah think of the utterly vile and abhorrent condition within himself.

It is a very humiliating thing to learn what we are in the flesh and that the nature of Adam is within us. We all tend to think that we are alright, but it is very humbling in the extreme to discover how vile we are in the sight of a holy God. However we find that even there Jonah could pray, thus endorsing the words of Paul, “I will therefore that men pray every where” [1 Tim. 2:8]. I am sure that you and I will never be in so dire a situation as Jonah found himself, but if we do, like him, we can pray.

2V 2. “And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.” As we note in this book even ungodly men pray in life threatening situations. When we through our own disobedience find ourselves in dreadful situations we can still pray. You will note it is not recorded that Jonah ever prayed when the call of God came or when the ship was in great danger, however in the circumstances he now finds himself in, there is only one answer - prayer! This of course is the first step towards restoration, and the only one who can bring it about is God, the Creator and upholder of all things. “Upholding all things by the word of his power” [Heb. 1:3].

Jonah did not just pray but cried out because of his “affliction”. There is no formality or pious words here, it was a cry from the deep distress of his heart. There are many of God's people who cried unto Him: [Exo.8:12. Deu.26:7, Josh. 24:7. 1 Sam. 12:10. Psa. 3:4. Psa.30:2. and many more.] We read often that when men cried unto the Lord He “delivered them” or “saved them.” There is nothing more certain when we cry unto the Lord, for He always hears and answers. “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear” [Isa.59:1].

The Saviour and Salvation Promised

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament and signalled a period of 400 years of prophetic silence, only broken when John the Baptist arrived on the scene with his battle cry ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord’. Malachi is a real treasure trove of truths and promises even though it is only 4 chapters long. Firstly we have the promise of the Lord's messenger in verse 1. ‘Behold, I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me’. Malachi here, 400 years before Christ, foretells the coming of the messenger – John the Baptist – look at the words of Malachi and what Luke says of John the Baptist in chapter 3 where he quoted from Isaiah 40 v 3, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness Prepare the way of the Lord’, they are the same. You would

have thought that the Jews would be ready for the arrival, but they were not. They did not accept that Jesus was the Messiah promised by Malachi and indeed many other prophets before Him. We are also sent by God to be His messengers to our world, and we must prepare the way for Jesus to come to the people who we come into contact with.

Secondly we have the promise of the Lord's coming from the second half of verse 1. 'And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple... Behold He is coming says the Lord of Hosts'. Do you remember the scene when Jesus was brought to the temple at 8 days old and Simeon's reaction? He was waiting for the Messiah like all good Jews and yet until God revealed Jesus to him he was not aware that the Messiah had been born. But when he saw Jesus he said, 'Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace. According to Your Word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation' (Luke 2 vs. 29-30).

Malachi foresaw the coming of John the Baptist and also the coming of Jesus into a world that was in a terrible state and he was faithful in warning the people. When we witness to people we should always point them to the Lord Jesus, just as both Malachi and John the Baptist did. Malachi said 'He will prepare the way before Me (that is the Lord) and John said 'But One mightier than I is coming' (Luke 3 v 16). It is easy to try and win people to ourselves or try and be popular, but our mission is not self but Christ.

Thirdly Malachi saw the state of the world when Jesus was to come. Look at verses 5 and 7a, 8-9, 13 to 15. When Jesus came in Bethlehem the world was in a terrible state and the Jewish nation was no different. The Romans had taken over and were harsh rulers, taxing the people heavily, doling out rough justice, and evil was rampant. People were taking advantage of others less able to look after themselves, godlessness, lies, witchcraft, immorality, and countless other ills prevailed. Is this not also a picture of the world in which we live? People are turning away from God, turning to false doctrines and the occult. There are more witches and warlocks now than there has ever been. Look at the number of elderly who are being conned by rogue traders, the number of muggings, and the sexual depravity that we read of in the papers. Look at the church today and what is happening with its leaders. Is the state of the world not a sign that the Lord is due to return?

Fourthly Malachi saw the restoration of God's chosen people and the way of salvation. See verses 2 to 4, 6 and 7b. He saw that those Jews who returned to faith in God and obeyed the call of His messenger. We who are of the New Covenant of God are the mirror of the Jews because we too are God's chosen people, so if the 'church' repents and turns back to Him then He will restore. Can we see the restoration of Israel and the church to its rightful place? Can we see the plan of salvation for those who are lost in sin? Let us always be telling people we meet about the way of salvation.

Finally Malachi saw the promise of God's blessing upon His people and the final victory. See verses 10 to 12, 16-17. He saw what we see, in that when we put our trust in God and follow His will then there is much blessing. The enemies of God's people will eventually be brought down and the Lord will provide for all the needs of His chosen ones. Malachi saw opened a book of remembrance for all who feared God and considered His Word. We are reminded by God's word that there is a book 'The Lamb's book of Life' in which all of us who have trusted Him for salvation. All who follow Him are

recorded and this book will be opened when Christ come again for His own. While His people are here on Earth He promises His presence, His provision and His blessing. Let us rejoice, be thankful and determined to work for Him so that others may share in the wonder of salvation and the blessings of living for and with Jesus.

Michael Hewison

Go Compare

“To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? ... To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One ... To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?” (Isaiah 40:18, 25; 46:5).

If you are like me, you will find those insurance and shopping comparison commercials on television irritating. Each one asks the viewer to compare the different price of several companies so that they can find a better deal. The people of Israel did exactly this when they began to choose the false gods of the surrounding nations instead of the true God. In doing so they broke their relationship with Him. Things have not changed much, because people today think they are getting a better deal by choosing to follow false religion rather than Biblical Christianity.

“Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?” (Isaiah 40:12).

Our God created the universe and all that is in it. When we compare the Genesis account of creation with those of pagan religion and evolution, we cannot but see that they are foolish at best, and are the product of minds of those who turned away from God. He knows the exact quantity of all the water and dust on earth. He does not have to guess the true weight of the mountains and hills.

“Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?” (Isaiah 40:12-13).

Most people today think they know better than God. They think that Darwin was more intelligent than Him. They would rather put their trust in false theories and teachings of men, than in the one who reveals Himself in Christ and Scripture. So man has come up with better religions and philosophies, or so he thinks, but “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25). How can a man compare God with anything else if he does not understand Him in the first place? “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

“Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth

them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity” (Isaiah 40:21-23).

Trying to outsmart God is at the foundation of every unbiblical teaching that man has come up with. Evolutionists speak of the so-called errors God made in Creation, but not one of them has ever created anything better. Thus we see the utter foolishness of those who strut about while declaring they are wiser than God. One day they will have to deal with the one they reject and mock. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent” (1 Corinthians 1:18-19).

Man’s knowledge is limited, yet he thinks he knows everything. He dismisses the existence of God before he has perfect understanding of everything in the universe and beyond. How could this be possible if he does not even know the exact number of hairs on his own head?

“Remember this, and show yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isaiah 46:8-10).

Such resistance to God’s authority has continued ever since Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan’s lies, but ultimately every soul that has ever lived will have to stand before the Judgement Seat of God. “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works” (Revelation 20:11-13). Everything an unsaved man does is an act of rebellion for “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Man’s insistence on comparing God with the teachings of fallen men can only lead him in one direction. They may think they are getting a better deal, but sooner or later the true price has to be paid for their souls. We cannot compare our God with false religion, evolution or other deluded theories, for they are Satan’s deceptions to lure man to Hell. “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18). How can we compare Christ with anything else since He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). “Yea, there is no God; I know not any” (Isaiah 44:8).

Gary Hall



April – June 2011

Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries = Fully Effective Membership

FEM Executive:

The council members present at the recent business meeting were: Paddy Flynn (chairman), Terry Martin (treasurer), Gary Hall (principal), Frank Rowley (administrator), Mike Hewison (administrator), Paul Davis (executive member), Ian Rowley (probationary executive member), abs Richard Hardy (probationary executive member). Prayer was offered for David Moody who is recovering after cancer treatment.

FEM Reports:

As with the early church all the reports were received with joy and gladness for how the Lord is working with FEM members throughout the UK. Our prayerful vision is for FEM to flourish as we work together in love and unity.

FEM Sounding the Trumpet:

Gary thanked those who had submitted articles for publication in Sounding the Trumpet. His guidelines for submission were circulated. It was requested that executive members and others be encouraged to submit articles and sermons for the magazine.

FEM Looking Up:

The following is taken from David's email encouragements - "If I look at myself, I am depressed. If I look at those around me, I am often disappointed. If I look at my circumstances, I am discouraged. When I look at Jesus, I am constantly, consistently and eternally fulfilled!"

FEM Facebook:

FEM is on Facebook, the page can only be accessed by members and students. Ian Rowley, Gary Hall, Colin Ryan, Ian Thompson, Frank Rowley and David Little maintain their own personal pages. You can join us on Facebook via www.femonline.co.uk.

FEM Websites:

www.femonline.co.uk
www.gods-honest-truth.com

Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
David Moody

www.LWBC.co.uk	Living Word Bible Church
http://hunslet.2truth.com	Hunslet Nazarene Church
http://evangelisticministry.com	Ian Rowley
http://coloursofthetrinity.2ya.com	Frank Rowley

Pray for and visit these websites as they seek to minister to the world and the church.

FEM Emails:

Eddie Turner has changed his email address to:-
eddieturner001@gmail.com.

FEM ePub and Kindle Library:

These books can be read on electronic readers such as Sony and Kindle. There are at present almost 700 titles. Please visit the Living Word Bible Church website to download any of these free of charge.

FEM Audio:

A weekly audio sermon is uploaded to FEM's website. These originate and can also be accessed from the Hunslet Nazarene Church and Living Word Bible Church sites.

FEM Forward:

Hopefully our "Keep in touch" link will prove to be a blessing amongst FEM members as we seek to encourage fellowship and friendship. It was good to receive queries from Richard Cook, Eddie Turner, David Moody and Colin Ryan regarding the ongoing work of FEM. It was also great to learn how the Lord was blessing their respective ministries.

FEM Administrators:

Mike Hewison and Frank Rowley seek to keep members well informed with regards to the work and activities of the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries. Mike manages all our legal matters and has proven to be very agile with his antique gavel during business meetings.

FEM Believers Baptism:

Richard Cook conducted a baptism service at Heysham recently where three believers went through the waters in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice with Richard in this positive witness and pray that his outreaches will be blessed.

FEM Great Grandfather Dedicates Olivia:

Frank Rowley conducted the dedication service for his great granddaughter Olivia at the Hunslet Nazarene Church. Approximately eighty people were in attendance. The Lord ministered to the congregation in a tremendous way through an eight year old boy as he shared his thoughts on God and His role in the family. The Lord was truly glorified through the service.

FEM Chaplaincies:

Paddy Flynn reviewed his work with the West Yorkshire Police Chaplaincy during the recent business meeting. He spoke of the great concerns of police officers regarding the implications after national cutbacks. He is working closely with and is on the leadership team of the Christian Police Association. It was good to learn that the Chief Superintendent is a committed Christian. Terry Martin continues to work as chaplain at the Castlefield branch of ASDA. In addition Terry works with the Wakefield Division of the Police Force. He is also on the ministry team at the Hunslet Church of the Nazarene, where he is responsible for the outreach of the church. Richard Cook is busy as the Railway Mission chaplain for Liverpool and the North West.

FEM Believing Prayer:

We lift up the needs of our members and friends before the Throne of Grace. These include David Moody, who though being ill, is strong in faith. Grace Pennington who is bravely facing treatment for cancer. Living Word Bible Church as they seek a new building. Frank Rowley as he is having further treatment to save the sight in his right eye. Mike Hewison who is steadily recovering from surgery on his shoulder.

Please pray for the upcoming FEM AGM and Celebration Rally at Cranfield Baptist Church in Milton Keynes (see display in Sounding the Trumpet). Also, let us not forget those who are suffering the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Though only 2% of Japan is Christian, we are obligated to intercede for all the people there, especially since the radiation leaks will add to their misery. We pray that many will turn to Christ at this time.

“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Timothy 4:6).